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Grenada response

Based on my experience as a Latin American expert in intelligence in World War II, I want to add to Professor Harry Prongas' excellent and thorough analysis of the shameful evil of what President Reagan did in Grenada.

Reagan has actually accomplished the exact opposite of what he says he set out to do, regardless of what he and those who support his unconscionable attack on one of the smallest, weakest and poorest countries of the world say now.

There is no stratum of Latin American society that will forgive or forget this cruel, crude and harsh practice of what for generations Latin American Communists and others have condemned as "Yanqui imperialism." It is not the poor alone who see it this way. It is all except perhaps a few who were happy with Hitler.

It is not possible to describe Latin American poverty in terms the average American can understand. To a large degree the United States is responsible for much of their suffering today because, if usually with less than Reagan's dishonesty, our governments have forced on and supported in those troubled lands a series of repressive and murderous military dictatorships, first for selfish economic reasons and more recently because they are supposedly anti-Communist. (As was Hitler, as was Mussolini.)

After two generations Nicaragua finally kicked out the long-lasting, U.S.-established and protected Samoza dictatorship. Our Marines put the first Samoza in, and when I was in grade school I was taught that the Nicaraguans who opposed this imposed dictatorship were "bandits." Those who got rid of the Hitlerian Samozas call themselves "Sandinistas" after the man who led that unsuccessful effort, the first resistance to the Samozas. Sandino was to them a George Washington.

Captured Italian foreign office records that passed through my hands include the request of the Samoza of four decades ago that Il Duce take a few minutes to teach him Il Duce's way. Who can blame the Nicaraguans for throwing out those evil men who also robbed the country of most of its wealth? Now Reagan actually organized and finances the military operations against them using Samoza remnants that he has all of us paying for (with the money he takes from the elderly and poorest of us.)

Most of the leaders of the many Latin American military dictatorships were trained and indoctrinated by our military. It is impossible to find any Latin American land that has not been impoverished by the wealth taken out by foreign corporations or their own wealthier people, leaving each country with inadequate capital. There are few Latin Americans too uneducated or too unsophisticated to understand this gut truth. It contols their lives.

The more repressive the regime the more popular it is with paranoids like Reagan who regard anti-Communism as the only measure of any government. All the military dictatorships meet his standard. The world is not quite this simple and the cost is too great, aside from our lost self-respect and the decent concern of mankind. This paranoia, in the end, serves Communist, not anti-Communist, interests. Those who drive out those who oppress them get help only from the left; and when the United States makes itself their enemy, they turn elsewhere for friends. The Reagans give them no choice.

If you give improverished, oppressed people the choice between the oppression they know and anything else, there is no alternative they will not choose over their oppression.

In the end, Reagan will have been the most effective recruiter for the Communists, especially in Latin America. He has already undone the limited good accomplished in varying degrees by all administrations beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt and his "good neighbor" policy.

If any of Professor Prongas' students has free time and an interest in research, I suggest two projects.

One is to collect all the administration statements relating to Grenada and all that came to light after the news could no longer be controlled and suppressed. I am confident that this will show that Reagan and all administration spokesmen never once told the truth and that all their allegations will be shown to be lies to serve improper political ends.

A second project is to check standard press sources, like *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, and count the Americans murdered by the dictatorships the United States government supports. Even for a limited period of five years the results will be astounding. It will also show that not one of these bloody regimes for which the United States in varying degrees is responsible was punished in any way or lost a penny of the largess of the United States taxpayers that keeps them in power.

Reagan and his like-minded are dominated by fear, have shamed us all in perpetuity and haven't the slightest notion of how to be effectively anti-Communist. Their acts help the Soviet Union.

Unlike the *News-Post*, which does not impose political preconceptions or its own point of view on what it prints, for which it cannot be praised too highly, in these times of great crises the major papers just fall in line behind the government until it is too late for truth to be effective. Then, to a degree, they cover their abdications by limited, belated publication of some of the truth. By then the harm is done and beyond immediate remedy.

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